

**ST5250 – ECCLESIOLOGY &
SACRAMENTS RTS Atlanta
WINTER 2024**

“Theology seems often to the outsider just so much word-spinning air-borne discourse which never touches down except disastrously.” – Ian Ramsey, *Models for Divine Activity*

“There are theologians in the bottom of hell who are more interested in their own thoughts about God than in God himself.” – C. S. Lewis

“Theology is the science of living blessedly forever” – William Perkins, *The Golden Chaine*

I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

A. Contact Information

1. Instructor: Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas
2. Email: dthomas@rts.edu
3. Assistant: Beck Otersen
4. Email: beckrhoton@gmail.com

B. Schedule

1. Course Dates: January 2–5, 2024
2. Meeting Time: Tuesday–Friday, 9am–4:30pm

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

A. Catalogue Description

1. This course explores biblical doctrine from a systematic perspective. Topics include ecclesiology and sacraments.

B. Learning Objectives

1. To grasp the Scriptural data related to ecclesiology and sacramentology
2. To familiarize the student with the confessional expression of ecclesiology and sacramentology
3. To introduce the student to some of the significant theological controversies related to ecclesiology and sacramentology
4. To present a biblical defense of the Reformed view on church and sacraments
5. To understand the pastoral value of Reformed ecclesiology and sacramentology

C. Theological Standpoint

1. The course will be taught from the standpoint of a personal commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith (full disclosure of presuppositional bias!).
2. In particular, it reflects the theology of sixteenth and seventeenth century theologians (students advocating separation rather than continuity in theological expression should read the four-volume work by Richard Muller, *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics*,

- before challenging the professor about it!). Students will detect a penchant for Puritan theologians of the caliber of Owen, Manton, Sibbes, and Charnock. Scottish sympathies abound, especially for William Cunningham (his view of Calvin on the Supper notwithstanding). Additional input will be evidenced from the Princetonians (Warfield and Hodge) and the wisdom of John Murray (his four-volume set of “Complete Writings” ought to be in every student’s library). As the professor gets older, greater recognition of Reformed theology’s Patristic roots are taking shape.
3. Additionally, all good theology should be doxological. Obedience in worship will be the chief objective of this course.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Class Attendance

1. Class attendance is imperative for successful completion of this course.

B. Textbooks (Required)

1. Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: Abridged in One Volume*, ed. John Bolt (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011).
2. John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles, vol. 2, 2 vols. (Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1960).
3. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church*, Contours of Christian Theology (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995).
4. John Murray, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 2, 4 vols., Collected Writings of John Murray (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1977).
5. John Murray, *Christian Baptism* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1980).
6. Derek Thomas, “Covenant, Assurance, and the Sacraments,” chap. 27 in *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*, ed. Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020).
7. Guy Prentiss Waters, *The Lord’s Supper as the Sign and Meal of the New Covenant*, Short Studies in Biblical Theology (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019).
8. *The Westminster Confession of Faith*

C. Assignments

1. Required Reading
 - Read the assigned portion of each text book. See Appendix III for a chart of assigned selections from each text. Submit a reading report on Canvas indicating how much of the assigned reading you have completed.
2. WSC Memorization
 - Memorize WSC 91–97 (either the traditional or modern English version will do). The final exam will include a random sample of three (3) of these. The exam will give you the question, and you will give the answer.
3. Term Paper
 - Write a 10-to-12-page research paper. See “Appendix I: Term Paper Guidelines.”

4. Final Exam

- Students will be examined on the material covered in the lectures and the reading. An exam review guide is provided in Appendix II below.

IV. COURSE GRADE

A. Required Reading	20%	(Due March 2, 2024)
B. Term Paper	40%	(Due March 2, 2024)
C. <u>Final Exam</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>(Due March 2, 2024)</u>
D. Total	100%	

APPENDIX I: TERM PAPER GUIDELINES**1. Assignment:**

- a. Students will write a research paper on an approved topic related to the course material.
- b. Students should submit term papers via Canvas in PDF format.
- c. Term Papers will be due by 11:59pm on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

2. Length:

- a. 10–12 pages

3. Grading: In order to receive an A, the paper must fit the following descriptors:

- a. Clear & Viable Thesis: The paper puts forth a viable thesis that is clearly stated and can be reasonably defended in a paper of the assigned length.
- b. Structure & Argumentation: The paper has a logical structure and provides appropriate argumentation in support of the thesis.
- c. Research: Student uses at least 8 sources; at least 2 of these sources are academic journal articles. The paper uses diverse and quality resources in a responsible manner.
- d. Formatting: The paper follows Turabian style, and a bibliography is included.
- e. Depth: The paper displays rigorous research, critical analysis, and theological insight.
- f. Presentation: The paper reflects good grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with clarity of expression and appropriate academic style.

4. Formatting:

- a. Chicago (Turabian) style
- b. Keep formatting consistent throughout
- c. Use footnotes rather than endnotes!!
- d. 12-point font
- e. Double spaced
- f. Must include a bibliography page. Automatic letter grade deduction if biblio is missing!
- g. Please only submit one (1) PDF to Canvas. i.e., your title page, paper, and bibliography should all be part of one (1) document, not three separate documents.

5. Important to Note:

- a. Please make sure that your thesis statement is clearly stated near the beginning of the paper.
- b. Please proofread to ensure that you are writing in coherent sentences.
- c. Must have at least eight (8) sources. Must interact with at least two (2) peer reviewed journal articles. Quality of sources will greatly impact the quality of the paper.

6. Helpful Resources:

- a. <https://rts.edu/campuses/charlotte/students/research-and-writing-seminary-papers/>

APPENDIX II: FINAL EXAM REVIEW GUIDE

Instructions:

The exam will have two sections: short answers (3 questions) and essays (2 questions). The short answer questions will be selected from WSC 91–97. The essay questions will test your grasp of the material covered in the lectures and the readings.

WSC 91–97¹

91. How do the Sacraments become effectual means of salvation?
 - a. The Sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.
92. What is a Sacrament?
 - a. A Sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.
93. Which are the Sacraments of the New Testament?
 - a. The Sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.
94. What is Baptism?
 - a. Baptism is a Sacrament, wherein the washing with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.
95. To whom is Baptism to be administered?
 - a. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.
96. What is the Lord's Supper?
 - a. The Lord's Supper is a Sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his
97. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?
 - a. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Essay

The exam will give you five (5) essay prompts. You will choose two (2) essays to write. Each essay should be at least five (5) solid paragraphs in length. Essays will be graded based on clarity, use of Scripture, argumentation, and how well they demonstrate your grasp of the course material. Below are some example questions to help you study for the essay portion of the exam.

¹ This is the KJV English version of the WSC. You may memorize the modern English version if you wish.

1. Does the church play an important role in the Christian life? If so, how and why?
2. What is the significance of Matthew 16:18 for the doctrine of the church? In your answer, address the exegetical, redemptive-historical, Christological, and historical significance of this verse.
3. Jesus said to Peter, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church” (Matt 16:18). Discuss some of the ways in which “the Peter saying” has been interpreted throughout church history and give a brief argument for the interpretation you favor.
4. Discuss the relationship between the Kingdom of God and the church.
5. Discuss the various metaphors that the NT uses to describe the church (body of Christ, etc...).
6. Define the term “marks of the church.” How have the marks of the church been formulated differently throughout church history (think about the four marks in the Nicene Creed and the three marks of John Know, for example).
7. The Nicene Creed says, “We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.” Does this formulation have biblical support? Why or why not?
8. What are deacons? In your answer, discuss at least two significant passages in the NT that inform our understanding of the diaconate.
9. What are elders? In your answer, discuss at least two significant passages in the NT that inform our understanding of elders.
10. What does the WCF mean when it says that sacraments are “signs and seals”?
11. What is the *Reformed* doctrine of the Lord’s Supper? How is the Reformed view different from the Lutheran and Roman Catholic doctrines of the Supper?
12. How is Christ present in the Lord’s Supper?
13. What is baptism?
14. Should the children of believers be baptized?
15. How are baptism and the Lord’s Supper similar? How are they distinct?

APPENDIX III: REQUIRED READING

TITLE	SECTION TO READ	TOTAL # OF PAGES
Herman Bavinck, <i>Reformed Dogmatics: Abridged in One Volume</i> , ed. John Bolt (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011).	Part VI: The Spirit Creates a New Community (Pp. 589–690)	102
John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> , ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles, vol. 2, 2 vols. (Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1960).	Book 4, Chs. 1–19 (Pp. 1011–1489)	479
Edmund P. Clowney, <i>The Church, Contours of Christian Theology</i> (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995).	All	290
John Murray, <i>Systematic Theology</i> , vol. 2, <i>Collected Writings of John Murray</i> (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1977).	Chapters 26–34 (Pp. 321–384)	64
John Murray, <i>Christian Baptism</i> (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1980).	All	90
Derek Thomas, “Covenant, Assurance, and the Sacraments,” in <i>Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives</i> , ed. Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020).	Chapter 27	16
Guy Prentiss Waters, <i>The Lord’s Supper as the Sign and Meal of the New Covenant</i> , <i>Short Studies in Biblical Theology</i> (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019).	All	117
<i>The Westminster Confession of Faith</i>	Chs. 21, 25–31	36
TOTAL PAGES		1,194 PAGES

APPENDIX IV: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RECOMMENDED READINGS²

Broad Systematic Works

- Michael Allen and Scott Swain, eds., *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016).
- Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: Holy Spirit, Church, and New Creation*, ed. John Bolt, trans. John Vriend, vol. 4, 4 vols. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003).
- Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2021).
- Robert Lewis Dabney, *Systematic Theology* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1996).
- John Frame, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief* (Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P&R Publishing, 2013).
- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Reprinted from the ed. originally publ. by Eerdmans [Grand Rapids, MI: 1952]., vol. 3, 3 vols. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2003).
- Robert Letham, *Systematic Theology* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019).
One of the best contemporary systematic theologies. Highly Recommended.
- J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2020).
- François Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1992).
- Geerhardus Vos, *Reformed Dogmatics* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012).
Volume 5 deals with ecclesiology and sacraments. An excellent new work. Dr. Smith assigns this in his ST3 course.
- Benjamin B. Warfield, *Selected Shorter Writings of Benjamin B. Warfield*, ed. John E. Meeter, vol. 2, 2 vols. (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Pub. Co, 1970).

Historical Works

- Joel R. Beeke, *Puritan Reformed Theology: Historical, Experiential, and Practical Studies for the Whole of Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2020).
- Joel R. Beeke and Mark Jones, *A Puritan Theology: Doctrine for Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2012).
- Louis Berkhof, *The History of Christian Doctrines* (Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1937).
- Jean Calvin, *The Necessity of Reforming the Church*, trans. Casey Carmichael (Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust, 2020).
- J. Ligon Duncan, ed., *The Westminster Confession into the 21st Century: Essays in Remembrance of the 350th Anniversary of the Westminster Assembly*, 3 vols. (Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2009).
- The Book of Common Prayer*
- McGraw, Ryan M. *The Ark of Safety: Is There Salvation Outside of the Church?* Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2018.

² The following is a short list of recommended works related to the topics in the course. This list and the assigned textbooks are good places to begin your paper research.

Richard A. Muller, *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics*, 4 vols. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academics, 2003).

Very highly recommended. The definitive, go-to work on the development of post-Reformation theology.

J. I Packer, *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010).

Thomas Witherow, *I Will Build My Church: Selected Writings on Church Polity, Baptism and the Sabbath*, ed. Jonathan Gibson (Glenside, PA: Westminster Seminary Press, 2021).

A new printing of works by Thomas Witherow. Witherow was a Presbyterian minister in the 19th century. He was born in Northern Ireland. This new volume contains a forward by Sinclair Ferguson, a biography of Witherow by Gibson, and three of Witherow's famous writings. Highly recommended.

Biblical Sources

George William Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, NIGTC (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008).

Perhaps the best commentary available on the Pastoral Epistles. Necessary to consult for questions related to qualifications for officers (1 Tim. 3, Titus 1).

George Eldon Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, Revised. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993).

Ladd has many helpful things to say related to the kingdom of God in the Gospels. Highly recommended.

Philip H. Towner, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*, NICNT (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006).

Geerhardus Vos, *The Teaching of Jesus Concerning the Kingdom of God and the Church* (Fontes Press, 2017).

Ecclesiology

James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2015).

A classic work on ecclesiology. Dr. DeYoung assigns this is his ST3 course.

G. C. Berkouwer, *Studies in Dogmatics: The Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1976.

Sinclair Ferguson, *Children of the Living God* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2011).

Essential reading on adoption. Related to the "family of God" model for church.

Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*, *Contours of Christian theology* (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1996).

R. B. Kuiper, *The Glorious Body of Christ: A Scriptural Appreciation of the One Holy Church* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1967).

Benjamin B. Warfield, "Presbyterian Deaconesses," *The Presbyterian Review* 10, no. 38 (1889): 283–293.

Guy Prentiss Waters, *How Jesus Runs the Church* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2011).

An excellent volume in defense of Presbyterian polity. Highly recommended.

Practical Theology

Charles Bridges, *The Christian Ministry* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2020).

Edmund P. Clowney, *Called to the Ministry* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1964).

Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, Fourth edition. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021).

Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert, *What Is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011).

Daniel M. Doriani, *Women and Ministry: What the Bible Teaches* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003).

Sinclair Ferguson, *Devoted to God's Church: Core Values for Christian Fellowship* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2020).

C. H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students: Complete & Unabridged* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1954).

The Worship of the Church³

D. A. Carson, ed., *Worship by the Book* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002).

John Frame, "Some Questions About the Regulative Principle," *Westminster Theological Journal* 54, no. 2 (1999): 357–366.

Frame does not hold to the traditional view of the Regulative Principle. This article, his *Systematic Theology*, and his *Doctrine of the Christian Life* explain his position. See *Give Praise to God* for a response.

Jonathan Gibson, ed., *Reformation Worship: Liturgies from the Past for the Present* (Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2018).

An excellent volume. Highly recommended. Gibson includes a couple chapters on the biblical data for worship, and then offers fresh translations of many liturgies from the Reformers.

Terry L Johnson, *Reformed Worship: Worship That Is According to Scripture* (Jackson, MS: Reformed Academic Press, 2008).

Richard Muller and Rowland Ward, *Scripture and Worship: Biblical Interpretation and the Directory for Public Worship*, The Westminster Assembly and the Reformed Faith (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2007).

Hughes Oliphant Old, *Worship That Is Reformed According to Scripture*, Guides to the Reformed tradition (Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1984).

Matthew Pinson, ed., *Perspectives on Christian Worship: 5 Views* (Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2009).

Philip Graham Ryken, Derek Thomas, and J. Ligon Duncan, eds., *Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2011).

³ We will not address worship very much in this course since there is a separate ST course devoted to the theology of worship. However, corporate worship is an essential facet of ecclesiology and church life. Hence the recommended readings.

Derek W. H. Thomas, *Let Us Worship God: Why We Worship the Way We Do* (Orlando, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2021).

Trinity Hymnal (Suwanee, GA: Great Commission Publications, 1990).

The Sacraments

G. C. Berkouwer, *The Sacraments*, Studies in Dogmatics (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1969).

Robert Bruce, *The Mystery of the Lord's Supper: Sermons on the Sacrament Preached in the Kirk of Edinburgh by Robert Bruce in A.D. 1589*, ed. Thomas F Torrance (Edinburgh: Christian Focus Publications, 2005).

Joachim Jeremias, *Infant Baptism in the First Four Centuries* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2004).

Joachim Jeremias, *The Origins of Infant Baptism: A Further Study in Reply to Kurt Aland* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2004).

I. Howard Marshall, *Last Supper and Lord's Supper* (Vancouver: Regent College Pub., 2006).

Letham, Robert. *The Lord's Supper: Eternal Word in Broken Bread*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2001.

Mathison, Keith A. *Given for You: Reclaiming Calvin's Doctrine of the Lord's Supper*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2002.

Marcel, Pierre-Charles. *Biblical Doctrine of Infant Baptism* (trans. Philip Edgcumbe Hughes; Seoul and New York: Westminster Publishing House, n.d.).

Richard Pratt, "Infant Baptism in the New Covenant," in *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism*, ed. Gregg Strawbridge (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003).

Sartelle, John P. *Infant Baptism: What Christian Parents Should Know*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1985.

Thomas R. Schreiner and Shawn D. Wright, eds., *Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ*, NAC Studies in Bible & Theology (Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2006).
An important defense of credobaptism.

Strawbridge, Gregg, ed. *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2003.

Watson, Thomas. *The Lord's Supper*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2004.

Witsius, Herman. *On the Efficacy and Utility of Baptism in the Case of Elect Infants Whose Parents are Under the Covenant*, translated by William Marshall.

<https://www.midamerica.edu/uploads/files/pdf/journal/17-witsius.pdf>

David F. Wright, ed., *Baptism: Three Views* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009).

Sinclair Ferguson's chapter in this book is excellent. Highly recommended.

Covenant Theology

Richard P. Belcher, *The Fulfillment of the Promises of God: An Explanation of Covenant Theology* (Fearn, Ross-shire: Mentor, 2020).

Peter Gentry and Stephen Wellum, *Kingdom through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants*, 2nd ed (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018).

This is a large tome arguing for a position named “progressive covenantalism.”

John Murray, *The Covenant of Grace: A Biblico-Theological Study* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1988).

Stephen G. Myers, *God to Us: Covenant Theology in Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage, 2021).

Geerhardus Vos, *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*, 3rd Printing, July 1973. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1948).

Guy Prentiss Waters, et. al. ed., *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2020).

This volume was written by RTS professors. Highly recommended.

O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1985).

O. Palmer Robertson, *The Israel of God: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2000).

John Von Rohr, *The Covenant of Grace in Puritan Thought*, Studies in Religion 45 (Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1986); Rowland S Ward, *God & Adam: Reformed Theology and the Creation Covenant* (Wantirna, Australia: New Melbourne Press, 2003).

Thomas R. Schreiner, *Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World*, Short Studies in Biblical Theology (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017).

A concise biblical-theological study of the covenants from a perspective quite similar to Gentry and Wellum’s “progressive covenantalism.”

Cornelis P. Venema, *Christ + Covenant Theology: Essays on Election, Republication, and the Covenants* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017).

Guy Prentiss Waters, *The Federal Vision and Covenant Theology: A Comparative Analysis* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006);

Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenants Between God and Man*, vol. 1, 2 vols. (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2010).

Andrew A. Woolsey, *Unity and Continuity in Covenantal Thought: A Study in the Reformed Tradition to the Westminster Assembly*, Reformed Historical-Theological Studies (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage, 2012).

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ST5250: Ecclesiology and Sacraments
 Professor: Rev. Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Winter 2024

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Students will be expected to write a graduate level research paper.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Scriptural justification/assessment is required for the doctrinal concepts articulated in this course.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	This course will examine the Reformed doctrines of ecclesiology in depth.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.	Strong	All truth is in order to godliness.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Students are expected to think of ways the doctrines explored form a worldview
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	Students are urged to defend their doctrinal positions winsomely.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	Moderate	Frequent analysis of how doctrine should/can be preached will be made. We’ll discuss some aspects of worship as it relates to pastoral studies. Pastoral application and examination of ecclesiology and the sacraments will be done through out. We’ll examine various views on ecclesiology and the sacraments (Presbyterian, Baptist, Roman Catholic, etc...).